

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 11040 300654Z
ACTION EA-12

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 11040

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS; SHUM, PDIP, RP
SUBJECT: NEW YORK INCIDENT

REF: STATE 166004

1. MET WITH ROMULO MORNING JUNE 30 TO REVIEW MY DISCUSSION
OF YESTERDAY WITH MARCOS ABOUT NEW YORK INCIDENT. FOUND THAT
PRESIDENT HAD ALREADY BRIEFED FONMIN IN GENERAL TERMS.

2. SAID WE WISHED BE SURE THAT PHILIPPINE UN MISSION WAS
FULLY READ INTO PICTURE ABOUT SOLUTION RECOMMENDED BY PRESI-
DENT AS MOST PROMISING WAY TO AVOID FURTHER PUBLIC EXACERBA-
TION OF INCIDENT. OUR SIDE IS READY TO HAVE FACE-TO-FACE
MEETING AT UN. POLICE WILL HAVE LIEUTENANT PRESENT AND IF
SENIOR PHILIPPINE DIPLOMAT IS TO ATTEND, USUN WOULD ALSO
WANT TO BE REPRESENTED. EXPLAINED WE NOT TAKING ANY INITIA-
TIVE PROVIDE NEW YORK POLICE REPORT TO PRESS BUT WOULD, OF
COURSE, USE THE REPORT IN ANY HOST COUNTRY COMMITTEE (HCC)
MEETING. ALSO MADE POINT THAT NY POLICE, IF FACED WITH LEGAL
ACTION INITIATED BY DACALANIO AND CEBUANG, MIGHT DECIDE TO
PRESS CHARGES AGAINST THOSE INVOLVED IN INCIDENT. IN ANY LAW-
SUIT ARISING FROM INCIDENT, I SAID, POLICE REPORT WOULD BE-
COME AVAILABLE TO OTHERS AND PROBABLY PART OF COURT RECORDS.

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3. ROMULO THEN TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR YANGO IN NEW YORK (1000
HOURS MANILA) AND ADVISED AMBASSADOR THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS
DECIDED ON THE "CONFRONTATION" BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE TWO
FILIPINOS AS THE BEST SOLUTION. ROMULO TOLD YANGO THAT RE-
COURSE TO THE HCC SHOULD BE HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING RESULTS
OF "FACE-TO-FACE CONFRONTATION" BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT PRESI-
DENT EXPECTS THE POLICE-PHILIPPINE MEETING TO ACHIEVE ITS

OBJECTIVE AND THEREBY ELIMINATE NEED FOR ANY FURTHER ACTIONS.

4. ROMULO ALSO ADVISED YANGO, ON WHAT FONMIN DESCRIBED AS PRESIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS, THAT YANGO SHOULD ATTEND THE MEETING FOR GOP, WITHOUT EITHER AMBASSADOR ROMUALDEZ OR CONGEN PINEDA IN ATTENDANCE. (COMMENT: ROMULO EXPLAINED THIS POINT TO ME BY STRESSING YANGO IS ONLY LAWYER AMONG THE THREE GOP OFFICIALS. HE MADE SO MUCH OF THIS EXPLANATION AS TO SUGGEST HIS REAL REASON IS CONCERN THAT ROMUALDEZ AND PINEDA MAY HAVE UNNECESSARILY MUDDIED THE WATERS.) ROMULO SAID THAT YANGO, IN REPLYING, STRESSED HIS ONLY AIM WAS TO PROTECT THE PHILIPPINE CENTER IN THE FUTURE AND SECURE RESPECT FOR ITS IMMUNITY. ROMULO TOLD YANGO THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED BY OTHER MEANS. YANGO THEN REPORTED HE HAD ALREADY SECURED THE INFORMAL SUPPORT OF NATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE HCC. ROMULO SAID THAT NO FURTHER CONTACTS SHOULD BE MADE SINCE SOME NATIONS ON HCC HAVE NO INTEREST IN SOUND US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS AND WOULD BE MOTIVATED SOLELY BY MISCHIEFMAKING. ALL THAT WAS NEEDED NOW, ROMULO SAID, WAS TO RELIEVE TENSIONS ON PART OF PHILIPPINE PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON. IN CONCLUSION HE DIRECTED YANGO "TO BE AS CALM AS POSSIBLE."

5. ROMULO THEN ASKED IF WE WOULD HAVE AMBASSADOR LEONARD ALSO ATTEND MEETING FROM U.S. SIDE. PROMISED RELAY REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT.
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6. I NOTED IN PASSING GOP HAD JUMPED THE GUN IN RELEASING SECRETARY'S LETTER. ROMULO MADE NO REPLY. FONMIN THEN GRUMBLED ABOUT TODAY'S PRESS PLAY IN PHILIPPINE NEWSPAPERS ABOUT VANCE LETTER AND SAID THAT HE WAS GOING TO TELL MARCOS THAT MINISTER TATAD HAD "MUFFED" THE JOB. ONLY ONE PAPER HAD THE DESIRED SIMPLE HEADLINE THIS MORNING OF, "U.S. APOLOGIZES TO R.P." OTHERS HAD QUALIFIED OUR APOLOGY IN UNHELPFUL WAY. FONMIN COMMENTED SARDONICALLY, "THIS SHOULD SHOW YOU JUST HOW POORLY WE CONTROL OUR LOCAL PRESS. HE SAID THAT IN FURTHER EFFORT TO CUT OFF PUBLIC DEBATE, MARCOS HAS TOLD ROMULO TO ABSENT HIMSELF FROM ASSEMBLY SESSION TODAY AND TO AVOID MAKING ANY PRESS STATEMENTS. ROMULO HAS RELEASED WORD HE HAS LARYNGITIS AND DIRECTED FON MINISTRY, IF ASKED WHETHER GOP IS SATISFIED WITH U.S. "APOLOGY," TO REPLY THAT "THE MATTER IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE MINISTRY WILL HAVE NO COMMENT."

7. ACTION REQUESTED: USUN CONTACT AMBASSADOR YANGO MORNING OF JUNE 30 TO ARRANGE TIME OF MEETING. I HOPE AMBASSADOR LEONARD WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO ATTEND. MURPHY

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